

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN

APPROVED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 022894

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM D. ROGSRS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MONTEVIDEO 343 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
JANUARY 31ST:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MFM, TGEN, XM, UY

SUBJECT: MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WORKING GROUPS

REF: (A) MVD 321 (B2 STATE 21495

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER

1. DCM MET AT FONMINISTRY MORNING JAN. 31 WITH SUB-
SECRETARY MICHELIN AND DR. JORGE ALVAREZ WHO HEADS GOU
DELEGATION TO WGSTT IN MONTEVIDEO. DCM REPEATED INFORMATION
PASSED BY PHONE TO MICHELIN ON JAN. 30 DRAWN FROM REF. (B).
DCM ALSO INFORMED MICHELIN AND ALVAREZ OF US VIEWS ON
POSTPONEMENT OF WORKING GROUP ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS
SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 10.

2. DCM REFERRED TO FACT THAT DEPT'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING
ARGENTINE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING POSTPONEMENT MFM AND
EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICA
HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO FONMINISTER BLANCO ON JAN. 28 AND
30 RESPECTIVELY. DCM NOTED DISAPPOINTMENT OF USG THAT
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BA-MFM HAD BEEN POSTPONED AND STATED ATTITUDE OF LATIN

AMERICA AS EXPRESSED IN ARGENTINE COMMUNIQUE HAD LED US TO CONCLUSION THAT PREFERABLE TO POSTPONE WGSTT UNTIL FUTURE OF NEW DIALOGUE CLARIFIED. DCM WENT ON TO SAY -- CHARACTERIZING THEM AS PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS -- THAT SINCE BOTH WORKING GROUPS FLOW FROM AND RELATE DIRECTLY TO MFM ITSELF, OUR ATTITUDE SHOULD BE MORE UNDERSTANDABLE. IF

CONDITIONS NOT CONDUCIVE TO HOLDING MFM, THEN EQUALLY UNDERSTANDABLE WE SHOULD BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE UTILITY IN WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AT THIS TIME.

3. FINALLY, DCM LAID STRESS ON FACT THAT OUR DECISION WITH RESPECT WGSTT MEETING HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH URUGUAY. ON CONTRARY, DCM HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED PASS ON TO FONMIN BLANCO DEPT'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS AND GOU'S CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS MFM AND NEW DIALOGUE IN GENERAL. WE HOPED WE COULD CONTINUE BE ABLE WORK TOGETHER IN FUTURE IN SAME POSITIVE WAY.

4. ALVAREZ REPLIED THAT HE REGRETTED OUR DECISION NOT PARTICIPATE, BUT THAT OBVIOUSLY ONE FOR US TO DETERMINE BASED ON OUR APPRECIATION OF SITUATION. HE WANTED AMBASSADOR BOWDLER TO KNOW THAT HE HAD FOUND POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH DELEGATIONS HERE, INCLUDING BRAZIL. HE SAID THESE DISCUSSIONS INDICATED THAT ACTION ALONE THE LINES OF THE GOU POSITION AS DISCUSSED BETWEEN HIM AND BOWDLER WAS MOST PROBABLE.

5. ALVAREZ REPEATED THAT HE PROFOUNDLY REGRETTED US DECISION, AND THAT WHILE HE DID NOT AGREE WITH IT -- JUST AS MANY OTHER DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT -- HE NEVERTHELESS APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS THE MATTER. HE ADDED HE WOULD INFORM OTHER DELEGATIONS THIS MORNING OF US DECISION (GOU HAS NOT YET DONE SO) AND INTENDED SAY HE HAD BEEN ADVISED OFFICIALLY US WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN WGSTT MEETING BASED ON ITS BELIEF THAT POSTPONEMENT OF BA-MFM DID NOT MAKE HOLDING OF MEETING OPPORTUNE. HE SAID HE WOULD ADD THAT GOU DID NOT AGREE WITH US DECISION NOT TO ATTEND JUST AS GOU DID NOT AGREE WITH DECISION TO POSTPONE BA-MFM. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO AVOID EXTENSIVE QUESTIONING.

6. MICHELIN SAID VERY LITTLE DURING MEETING. STATED HE WOULD INFORM FONMIN BLANCO AND HE ALSO (MICHELIN) CONFIDENTIAL

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REGRETTED OUR DECISION. HE MENTIONED THAT "VARIOUS" DELEGATIONS HAD TOLD HIM THAT EVEN WITH POSTPONEMENT BA-MFM THEY

STILL BELIEVED IMPORTANT CONTINUE WITH DIALOGUE THROUGH WORKING GROUPS THAT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

7. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S QUESTION, OALVAREZ SAID HE DID

NOT KNOW YET WHETHER WGSTT WOULD BE POSTPONED OR WOULD

CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED. PROBLEM WAS THAT DELEGATIONS
ALREADY HERE, BUT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH DELEGATIONS
THIS MORNING.

8. ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL, BUT BOTH MICHELIN AND ALVAREZ
OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED WE NOT ATTENDING. DCM BELIEVES,
HOWEVER, THAT THEY UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION ALTHOUGH
WITHOUT ACCEPTING IT FULLY. AT NO TIME IN CONVERSATION
WAS ANY QUESTION RAISED IN RESPONSE TO WHAT DCM SAID.
SIRACUSA

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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